DRAFT

CHILDREN'S RESPIRATORY DISEASE, SCHOOLS AND DAY-CARE CENTERS

OPERATIVE ASSUMPTION: Reports suggest that asthma (characterized by wheezing, chest tightness, cough) and respiratory disease is on the increase, both in children and adults.

OVERALL TRENDS: Many observers report that the following are demonstrable, if not clearly established trends:

1. Asthma is on the increase
2. More mothers are in the workplace
3. Children spend less time with mothers in home
4. Children spend more time indoors in daycare centers and schools (including after school hours)
5. Many schools and daycare centers have reported serious IAQ problems.
6. Major reasons for IAQ problems:
   a. old HVAC systems
   b. inadequate ventilation
   c. more carpets are in use in schools and daycare centers to reduce maintenance costs; these carpets harbor bioaresols and other toxins.
7. The New York State United Teachers Union recently estimated that one out of every two schools are "sick".
8. A recent study in Georgia reported that a lack of humidity control in schools correlated with respiratory illness in children
9. Children of low socioeconomic status receive less health-care, live in environmentally "risky" homes and generally have a higher prevalence of respiratory illness.

For Denise Keane -

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